United Nations S/2000/1002

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to a very serious development which has taken place in Lebanon. On 15 October 2000, the Secretary-General of the Hizballah terror organization announced publicly, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Salim al-Hoss, the abduction of an Israeli citizen and businessman, Elchanan Tennenbaum, and his detention as a hostage in Lebanon. This announcement was televised publicly, and was greeted with enthusiastic applause by those present. The Prime Minister of Lebanon even kissed the Secretary-General of Hizballah, lauding him for this act of banditry.

This shocking development follows an earlier kidnapping committed on 7 October 2000 in which three Israeli soldiers were abducted by Hizballah from Israeli territory in the border area between Israel and Lebanon. The soldiers, who are also being held hostage in Lebanon, were referred to in my letter dated 7 October 2000 (S/2000/689).

Clearly this action constitutes a further act of aggression and is a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations, fundamental principles of international law and Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978. The very fact that a private citizen, going about his own personal business, has been abducted, terrorized and held against his will — merely for the "crime" of his being an Israeli citizen — is something which cannot be tolerated by the international community and must be forcefully condemned by all civilized nations and peoples.

Israel holds the Government of Lebanon fully and directly responsible for this reprehensible act, as it does with respect to the above-noted kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers. Furthermore, Israel holds the Government of Lebanon fully responsible for the well-being of the hostages. Israel, which has fully implemented Security Council resolution 425 (1978), calls upon the Security Council to act urgently to secure the immediate and safe return of all the Israeli hostages and the cessation of all aggressive and illegal activity directed against Israel from Lebanese territory.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

00-69949 (E) 191000

United Nations S/2000/1003

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 October 2000
English
Original: French

Identical letters dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a memorandum stating the position of Morocco on the question of Western Sahara (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council under the item on the question of Western Sahara.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Snoussi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-69958 (E) 201000 201000

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Memorandum on the question of Western Sahara

The Kingdom of Morocco wishes to recall first of all that the Sahara is an integral part of its territory, which was recovered as part of the process of restoring Morocco's territorial integrity in conformity with international law.

As a gesture of goodwill, however, Morocco initiated the referendum process in Western Sahara to put an end to the artificial dispute that has been created over its territorial integrity.

When the United Nations assumed responsibility for organizing the referendum, the Kingdom of Morocco cooperated faithfully and unreservedly, contributed more than $150 million to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and showed maximum flexibility in seeking to bring the process to a successful completion.

It should be recalled in this connection that in 1991 Morocco became the first party to accept the criteria for identification, despite their restrictive nature.

In 1993, Morocco was the first party to accept the compromise concerning the interpretation of these criteria in the hope that the process of identification of applicants could begin, while the other party refused to accept the compromise.

In 1997, Morocco accepted the Houston Agreements, which were aimed at bringing about a resumption of the process that had been blocked since 1995 by the other parties.

Lastly, Morocco in 1999 accepted the protocols relating to the identification and appeals processes so that applicants from tribal groups, an issue which the Houston Agreements had failed to resolve, could be identified. Since these protocols contained numerous provisions limiting the rights of our applicants, we informed the Secretary-General of our formal reservations to them.

For its part, the other party has created numerous obstacles since the process began with the aim of preventing the largest possible number of Saharans from participating in the referendum.

It thus refused the criteria for identification in 1991, caused a considerable delay in the implementation of the compromise by rejecting it, even though it had been designed to address that party's concerns (themselves unfounded), blocked the identification process in late 1995 by refusing to identify the tribal groups, prevented the implementation of the 1997 Houston Agreements by refusing to identify all applicants from tribal groups and, lastly, now wishes to impose a partial and selective application of the protocol relating to the appeals process.

It should be mentioned also that this same party refuses to repatriate the Saharans detained at Tindouf and refuses to release its prisoners, whom it treats as slaves, even in the opinion of the foreign delegations that visited the camps just recently.

Contrary to what some may claim, these difficulties and obstacles can in no way be reduced to only those problems that are related to the appeals process, let alone to considerations that are related merely to financial and human resources.

In the face of these complex difficulties and insurmountable obstacles and at the request of the Security Council, Morocco at the Berlin meeting contributed both to efforts to resume the implementation of the Plan — but in vain — and to the initiation of a dialogue that could lead to a political solution to the dispute.

On the first question, Morocco responded to Security Council resolution 1309 (2000) by making the following proposals:

1. The reinclusion in the voter list of some 7,000 candidates selected by the identification centres and later taken off the list following an illegal review procedure.

2. Restriction of consideration of the receivability of appeals to consideration of procedural issues without consideration of the substance.

3. Consideration of appeals by a higher authority as provided for in the settlement plan.

4. Consideration of the appeals of our candidates only by the United Nations and by the sheikhs concerned on the Moroccan side. Unfortunately, the sheikhs of the other party, whose participation is not provided for in the settlement plan, have conspicuously proved that they have violated the oath they had given by acting solely on the instructions of the other parties and are thereby disqualified.

Sheikhs who represented the POLISARIO Front at the Identification Commission and who recently returned to Morocco have given evidence on this situation and on these activities to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at its current session.

5. Launching of the repatriation operation in the interior of the territory and far from the frontier without conditions and without delays. Indeed, all the repatriation conditions are in place for the release from the camps of those prisoners who are unable to travel without the authorization of those responsible for military security, even between the various camps at Tindouf. Diplomats and journalists who have visited the Tindouf camps could bear witness to this. The Saharans who had managed to escape from the camps and to return to Morocco provided unequivocal testimony to the Fourth Committee at the present session as to the total lack of the most basic freedoms.

Morocco, whose late King Hassan II granted a general amnesty, undertakes to ensure all the internationally recognized safeguards.

6. The release of Moroccan prisoners held in the Tindouf camps in Algeria and a halt to the inhuman treatment to which they are being subjected.

With respect to the second part of the Security Council resolution which is concerned with efforts to find a political solution to the dispute, the Kingdom of Morocco stated its willingness in Berlin to engage in direct dialogue between the parties to seek such a solution. It even outlined what it regards as a viable political solution capable of putting an end to this dispute.

The Kingdom of Morocco is increasingly convinced that what the other parties want is a specially contrived referendum, excluding the great majority of Saharans from the referendum consultation and taking no account of the incalculable consequences that might stem from such a position, and shares the assessment of the Secretary-General with regard to the near impossibility of finding compromise solutions to the fundamental divergencies concerning the implementation of the settlement plan.

This explains, therefore, my country's readiness, as stated in Berlin, to respond positively to the request of the Security Council concerning the search for a political solution in the framework of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Morocco.

Morocco, which proposed the referendum in 1982, states its continuing readiness to participate in a dialogue to seek another solution as the only means of overcoming the stalemate which the referendum has reached as a result of ill will and bad faith.

United Nations A/55/503–S/2000/1004

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 18 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 October 2000 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70119 (E) 251000

Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 4 October 2000 (A/55/454-S/2000/959) from the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations addressed to you, which contains allegations of violations of the airspace of the Republic and of the flight information region of Nicosia.

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called airspace and flight information region violations were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 17 August 2000 (A/54/963-S/2000/813, annex). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations derive from the deceitful and unacceptable pretence that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the entire island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This untenable position of the Greek Cypriot side clearly runs counter to the realities on the island and as such make it exceedingly difficult to achieve tangible progress in preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations.

While pretending to be interested in finding a negotiated settlement to the Cyprus question, the Greek Cypriot side is continuing with its militarization policy, in collaboration with Greece, within the framework of the so-called Joint Military Doctrine. The Turkish Cypriot side has consistently drawn the attention of all concerned to the dangers of such a policy. On the other hand, the Greek Cypriot side has continued unabatedly with a steady military build-up in South Cyprus. Heavy weaponry, such as the TOR-M1 and exocet missiles and other military equipment acquired by the Greek Cypriot administration, were displayed during the military parade held on 1 October 2000 in South Cyprus. Furthermore, the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are planning to carry out joint military manoeuvres code-named "Nikiforos" commencing on 18 October 2000.

The continuing negative and hostile attitude shown by the Greek Cypriot administration towards the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus diminishes the chances of an early settlement in Cyprus. That the Greek Cypriot party lacks the necessary political will to work constructively towards a comprehensive settlement is evidenced by its negative reaction to your opening statement of 12 September 2000 at the beginning of the fourth round of proximity talks held in New York. The rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of basic principles such as the equal political status of the two parties and the objective of bringing about a comprehensive settlement enshrining a new partnership, as underlined in your above statement, shows beyond any doubt that the Greek Cypriot side is far from the notion of establishing such a partnership on the basis of sovereign equality.

While strongly protesting the policy of escalation pursued by the Greek Cypriot administration as well as its campaign of misinformation against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey, I would like to express the hope that the international community would urge the Greek Cypriot administration to come to terms with the reality that there are two States in Cyprus and to work towards

attaining a new partnership by building bridges of trust and cooperation between them.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/55/505–S/2000/1005

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2000
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 74 (a)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 4 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the report of the fourteenth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Bujumbura on 17 and 18 August 2000 (see annex).

The meeting made important recommendations and drew up a programme of work for the Committee for 2000-2001 which will require the support of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the report circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70245 (E 241000

Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the fourteenth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Bujumbura, 17 and 18 August 2000)

Introduction

The fourteenth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Bujumbura on 17 and 18 August 2000.

The following States members took part in the meeting: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Republic of the Congo. Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe did not attend.

Representatives of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity also participated in the work.

The opening ceremony featured:

A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read out by Mr. Jean Arnault, his Special Representative in Burundi;

A statement by the Representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Sylvain Ngung Etul Mpwotsh;

The opening address by H.E. Mr. Frederic Bamvuginyumvira, First Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi.

Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the outgoing Bureau
3. Evaluation of the implementation of previous decisions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee
   (a) Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX);
   (b) Organization of joint military exercises in connection with peacekeeping operations between the armed forces of the countries of Central Africa;
   (c) Establishment of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;
   (d) Establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy.
4. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa
5. Intergovernmental cooperation in security matters in Central Africa
6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa
7. Report of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa
8. Draft resolution on the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee
9. Date and place of the next meeting
10. Work programme of the Committee for 2000-2001
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report of the fourteenth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee

Conduct of work

I. Election of officers

The Committee elected a new Bureau, as follows:

President:
Burundi

First Vice-President:
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Second Vice-President:
Central African Republic

Rapporteur:
Equatorial Guinea

II. Report of the outgoing Bureau

The Committee took note of the report presented by H.E. Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chad, in his capacity as outgoing Chairman of the Bureau at the ministerial level.

The Committee welcomed the efforts made by the outgoing Bureau to discharge the mandates entrusted to it by the twelfth and thirteenth ministerial meetings, particularly the assistance provided by the Committee to ECCAS in organizing a meeting of experts in Malabo in order to draw up a draft protocol on the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX); the organization in Bujumbura of the Subregional Conference on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Central Africa; the awareness-raising among the countries of the subregion with regard to the need for signing and/or ratifying the Non-Aggression Pact; the organization of the thirteenth and fourteenth ministerial meetings, the steps taken for the effective launching of COPAX; and the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy.

III. Evaluation of the implementation of the previous decisions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee

(a) Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX)

The Committee welcomed the information provided by the Gabonese delegation on progress in the setting up of an early warning mechanism, and in particular on the refurbishing of the building made available to the mechanism by the Gabonese Government.

The Committee was also informed of the contacts currently under way between ECCAS and the Gabonese Government with a view to the early opening of the building that will house the headquarters of the early warning mechanism.

The Committee welcomed the progress achieved in the elaboration of terms of reference for the early warning mechanism, the Central African Multinational Force and the Defence Commission for the Central African Countries and encouraged the member countries to make every effort to ensure their prompt adoption.

The Committee welcomed the ratification by several member countries of the legal instruments governing COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact and called on countries that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify these instruments.

(b) Organization of military exercises in connection with peacekeeping operations between the armed forces of the countries of Central Africa

The Committee reiterated its interest in organizing joint military exercises.

It repeated its recommendation that a meeting of the chiefs of staff of the Central African countries should be convened in order to review the Biyongho-98 exercise, revise its costs downwards and determine the division of contributions among the different countries.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that Gabon, the country which is to accommodate the exercise, was prepared to host this meeting.

A mandate was given to the Bureau to take all the necessary steps for the organization of the meeting.

(c) Establishment of a subregional parliament in Central Africa

The Committee was informed of the continuing contacts between ECCAS and the Government of Equatorial Guinea on the subject of the project to establish a subregional parliament in Central Africa.

It welcomed the establishment of a network of parliamentarians from the Central African countries in Malabo on 24 June 2000.

A mandate was given to the Bureau to continue to follow developments and to report on them at the next meeting.

(d) Establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy

The Committee congratulated the Cameroon Government on the steps that it had taken to start up the activities of the centre and noted with satisfaction the positive developments on this project, including:

- The wish expressed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that the centre should commence its activities in September 2000;
- The visit to Cameroon by two delegations from the Office to finalize the project with the local authorities and to that end to prepare a draft headquarters agreement and a memorandum of understanding between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the State of Cameroon and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cameroon;
- The information that the Secretary-General of the United Nations intended shortly to appoint a regional adviser to make arrangements for the operation of the centre;
- The offer by the Cameroon authorities of temporary premises at the Cameroon Institute of International Relations (IRIC).

In the interests of speeding up arrangements for the full operation of the centre, the Committee recommended that a meeting of experts from member countries should be organized in Yaoundé, with the task of finalizing the documents governing the organization and functioning of the centre.

A mandate has been given to the Bureau to take all the necessary steps to organize the meeting, in cooperation with the secretariat.

IV. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

Burundi

The Committee welcomed the positive developments in the situation in Burundi and in particular the progress achieved in the Arusha peace talks, including the preparation by the mediator of a draft agreement on peace and reconciliation which gives grounds for real hope.

It expressed its support for the efforts of the Government of Burundi and all Burundians engaged in the search for a lasting peace for the country.

The Committee commended the mediator's efforts to date to bring peace to Burundi and encouraged him to work on the establishment of a framework for a speedy outcome to the peace talks.

It urgently appealed to the armed rebels to agree to take part in the current talks and called on all the Burundian parties to work for national reconciliation and renewed peace in Burundi.

The Committee called for the immediate proclamation of a ceasefire in order to put an end to the heavy loss of human life.

It urged the countries of the region, particularly those of the Great Lakes region, to help the people of Burundi to regain peace through dialogue and reconciliation and not to engage in violence and war.

The Committee appealed to the international community for substantial support for the peace efforts in Burundi by such measures as renewing their cooperation with the country.

Cameroon

The Committee welcomed the growing climate of peace and stability in Cameroon.

It expressed concern at the ongoing cross-border phenomenon of roadblocks, the illicit traffic in light weapons, small arms and weapons of war and the upsurge in organized crime.

It welcomed the determination of the Government of Cameroon to combat insecurity, the commendable efforts it had made in that regard and the notable success already achieved.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the creation in the country of operational structures to combat corruption and insecurity.

It welcomed the continuation of the policy of dialogue pursued by the Government of Cameroon by implementing a consensual democracy which would favour the country's harmonious development.

The Committee again expressed deep concern at the information provided by the delegation of Cameroon on the persistent attempts at infiltration and repeated acts of provocation by Nigerian forces on the Bakassi peninsula and called on the two parties to refrain from any action that could heighten tensions while awaiting the decision of the International Court of Justice, which Cameroon had seized of the matter.

The Committee, while reiterating its appeal to the international community and friendly countries to assist in maintaining the peace between Cameroon and Nigeria while awaiting the verdict of the International Court of Justice, requested the Court to take the necessary steps to ensure a rapid conclusion of the proceeding pending before it.

The Committee again urged Nigeria to comply strictly with the interim measures of protection laid down by the Court in its ruling of 15 March 1996 and called upon the two parties to refrain from taking any action that could create difficulties for the application of the final judgement of the Court.

Republic of the Congo

The Committee welcomed the effective cessation of hostilities throughout the territory of the Republic of the Congo.

It welcomed the results obtained by the Monitoring Committee in the implementation of the various clauses of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities agreements, including those relating to:

- The resettlement of persons displaced both within and outside the country;
- The collection of weapons and ammunition of war; and
- The integration and rehabilitation of former members of the militia.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the easing of tension in the social and political climate in the Congo, the return to normal traffic conditions and other activities throughout the territory, the normalization of life in both city and country, the reopening of the Congo-Ocean railway and the adoption of the temporary post-conflict programme.

It encouraged the Congolese authorities and the mediator to organize a national dialogue, without exclusions, which would act as a culmination of the efforts undertaken to date and would encourage the renewal of the democratization process.

The Committee appealed to the international community to give its backing to the consolidation of peace in the Congo by increasing its support for the collection of weapons, the integration of demobilized young members of the militia and the implementation of the temporary post-conflict programme.

Gabon

The Committee was pleased at the climate of peace and political stability in Gabon, characterized by the free exercise of activities by political parties.

The Committee welcomed the measures taken by Gabon to strengthen national legislation for the protection of refugees with the establishment of:

- A National Refugee Commission;
- An Eligibility Subcommission; and
- An Appeals Office.

It was pleased at the strengthening of the cooperation between Gabon and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by means of the signature of a letter of understanding authorizing a non-governmental organization to support the Office's activities in its current campaign in south-east Gabon.

Equatorial Guinea

The Committee welcomed the climate of peace and stability prevailing in Equatorial Guinea.

It noted with satisfaction the progress in the democratization process in Equatorial Guinea and the recent transparent municipal elections, characterized by

the participation of all the political parties and a high turnout.

The Committee commended the Government for its efforts to promote a culture of democracy in the country and welcomed the financial assistance granted to political parties for the elections.

It welcomed the policy of friendly cooperation pursued by Equatorial Guinea with its neighbours.

Central African Republic

The Committee welcomed the restoration of peace in the Central African Republic and the efforts made by the Government to consolidate the peace with the assistance of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA).

It welcomed the establishment of participatory democracy in the Central African Republic, characterized by the presence in the Government of representatives of various political groups.

The Committee expressed its concern at the continuing acts of banditry carried out in the hinterland by means of roadblocks and noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Central African Government to combat insecurity.

Chad

The Committee welcomed the continuing process of consolidation of peace and democracy in Chad, particularly the steps taken to prepare for the forthcoming elections through the promulgation of the act establishing the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).

It encouraged the Chadian authorities to continue the policy of dialogue and reaching out to the opposition in order to arrive at national reconciliation among all Chadians.

It appealed to all parties in Chad to respond positively to this desire for dialogue and to give priority to conciliation in order to preserve the higher interests of the Chadian people.

The Committee took note with satisfaction of the positive outcome of the approaches made concerning the Chadian pipeline project and the approval of this project by the international financial institutions.

It also welcomed the opening of a UNHCR local office in N'Djamena.

V. Intergovernmental cooperation in security matters in Central Africa

The Committee took note with satisfaction of the actions and initiatives taken by the States members within the framework of cooperation in security matters, aimed at lessening tensions, combating insecurity in the border areas and making it possible to have exchanges between the various national structures dealing with these questions.

In view of the cross-border nature of most of the security problems in the subregion and the need to respond to them in a joint and concerted manner, the Committee again strongly recommended greater cooperation and dialogue among the security forces of the Central African countries, particularly within the framework of periodic meetings and the organization of joint operations.

The Committee particularly welcomed:

- The participation of Gabonese officers in the activities of the Monitoring Committee for the return of peace to the Congo;
- The tripartite security cooperation among the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola;
- Cooperation between the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic with regard to refugee flows and the safety of navigation on the Congo and Ubangi rivers.

The Committee expressed its concern at the administrative harassment to which nationals of the subregion are subjected in some member States. It recommended the intensification of high-level meetings between authorities of the member States, as well as regular meetings between border authorities, in order to prevent possible tensions arising from this situation and to consider ways and means of putting an end to them.

The Committee expressed its deep concern with regard to the upsurge in organized crime and insecurity in the countries of the subregion, particularly the development of the phenomenon of roadblocks. It

recommended the intensification of information exchange and the organization of large-scale joint operations to combat this scourge. It recommended that a high-level meeting should be held on the question, aimed at setting up a suitable legal framework for cooperation in the matter.

It stressed the need for closer cooperation among the security services of various countries with a view to combating the cross-border trade in stolen vehicles and, in this context, welcomed the creation in Chad of a unit to combat vehicle theft.

The Committee also recommended the creation of a fund to combat crime. The Bureau was mandated to study and propose ways and means of allocating sufficient resources to the fund.

Recalling the importance to the subregion's peace and security of the Mutual Assistance Pact concluded at Malabo in February 2000 among the countries of Central Africa, the Committee recommended that the Bureau should draw the attention of those countries which had not already done so to the need to sign and/or ratify the Pact by the end of 2000.

Aware of the need to strengthen cooperation for peace and security in the subregion, the Committee appealed to those countries that had not yet ratified the agreement on criminal police cooperation, signed in April 1999 at the meeting of the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs in Yaoundé (CCPAC), to take all necessary steps to proceed to the rapid ratification of this text and guarantee its full effectiveness.

The Committee also welcomed with satisfaction the decisions adopted at the third meeting of CCPAC, held in Yaoundé from 12 to 19 June 2000, particularly:

- The setting up in each country of a committee to monitor the activities of CCPAC;
- The creation of a framework for dialogue and cooperation among Central African directors of the *police judiciaire*;
- The holding in November 2000 of national consultations among crime control agencies;
- The harmonization of legislation in the countries of the subregion with a view to combating organized crime.

VI. Implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa

After reviewing the recommendations formulated by the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa, held in N'Djamena from 25 to 27 October 1999, the Committee welcomed the efforts of the countries of the subregion to implement them.

The Committee recommended that member countries should intensify measures to implement the recommendations of the Conference and, more generally, should spare no effort in the campaign against the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms, taking into account the dangers of this scourge for peace, security, stability and development in the subregion.

It welcomed the initiative taken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Government of Canada for the development of a subregional programme to combat the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, initially covering three member countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad.

It recommended that member countries should participate in the ministerial meeting to be held in Bamako in October 2000, in order to arrive at an African position in advance of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be convened in 2001.

VII. Report of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa

The Committee took note of the report and recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa, held in Bujumbura from 14 to 16 August 2000, and commended the participants on the pertinence and quality of the results of their deliberations.

The Committee entrusted the Chairman of the Bureau with transmitting the conclusions of this Conference to member States and to the secretaries-general of ECCAS, OAU and the United Nations, with a view to gaining support for their implementation.

VIII. Draft resolution on the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee

The Committee considered and adopted the draft resolution on its activities to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

It recommended that all member countries should contact their permanent missions to the United Nations in New York so as to ensure their consistent support for the adoption of this draft resolution.

IX. Date and place of the next meeting

The Committee decided to hold its fifteenth ministerial meeting during the second half of March 2001 in Bujumbura.

X. Work programme of the Committee for 2000-2001

- High-level seminar on the organization and functioning of an early warning mechanism (Yaoundé, January 2001);
- Fifteenth ministerial meeting of the Committee (Bujumbura, second half of March 2001);
- Meeting of experts on the modalities and terms of reference for the subregional centre for human rights and democracy (Yaoundé, date to be determined);
- Meeting of the chiefs of staff in order to review the Biyongho-98 military exercise (Libreville, date to be determined);
- Organization of a subregional conference on the protection of women and children in armed conflicts (place and date to be determined);
- Sixteenth ministerial meeting of the Committee (place and date to be determined).

XI. Other matters

The Committee urged member States to make regular contributions to the trust fund intended to finance its activities.

Lastly, the participants welcomed the favourable climate that had prevailed throughout their deliberations and expressed their appreciation to the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Mr. Pierre Buyoya, and to the Burundian Government and people for the warm welcome and fraternal attentions paid to them during their stay in Burundi.

Bujumbura, 18 August 2000

United Nations A/55/506–S/2000/1006

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 October 2000
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 109
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 4 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the report of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa, held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 14 to 16 August 2000 and organized by the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (see annex).

The conclusions of this meeting will no doubt help the States concerned to understand the crucial problem of internally displaced persons, who number in the millions in this region, and find short- and long-term solutions to this problem.

This contribution and the continued attention given to the issue will help to relieve the States of the Central African subregion, already beset by war and poverty.

I should be grateful if you would have the report circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-68255 (E) 191000 261000

Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa (Bujumbura, 14-16 August 2000)

I. Introduction

The Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa was held in Bujumbura from 14 to 16 August 2000, under the auspices of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

The Conference was held in response to the concerns expressed at previous meetings of the Advisory Committee about the vast expansion in recent years of massive movements of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa and their impact on both the populations concerned and the host countries or regions.

Since its establishment in 1992 by the United Nations Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, the Committee has seen itself as a tool of preventive diplomacy in the effort to ward off conflict within and among the member States, inter alia by addressing issues that are likely to threaten the peace, stability and development of the countries of the subregion and by devising appropriate measures to deal with them.

At their twelfth meeting, held in N'Djamena from 26 to 30 October 1999, the ministers of the countries members of the Committee expressed grave concern about the security problems created in the subregion by the massive influx of refugees and armed elements coming from other countries. They advocated increased bilateral contacts in order to lessen the tension aroused by this situation and requested the Bureau to take the initiatives needed for the holding of a subregional conference on the matter during the fourteenth ministerial meeting.

The following countries took part in the Conference: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe did not attend.

The Conference, which brought together high-level government officials, senior officers of the armed forces and representatives of civil society, offered an opportunity for an in-depth, open and direct exchange of views among them on the extent, manifestations and consequences of the phenomenon of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa and on national and subregional steps to be taken to deal with it.

The participants' analysis and discussions of these sensitive issues were enriched by presentations given by experts who had been called upon by the Committee secretariat because of their competence and expertise on the issues. They included, inter alia:

Ms. Rebecca Quionie Oba-Omoali, magistrate and Director for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Republic of the Congo;

Mr. François-Xavier Doudou Kiadila, principal legal adviser for Central and West Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva;

Ms. Fatima Banzani-Mollet, attorney, Republic of the Congo;

Mr. Abraham Constant Ndinga Mbo, professor of history, Republic of the Congo;

Mr. Roger Mengue Ekomie, legal adviser to the Minister of the Interior, Gabon.

The secretariat of the conference comprised Ms. Pamela Mapongo, Secretary of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, assisted by Ms. Nicole Moran and Mr. Ferdinand Ngoh Ngoh.

The opening ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr. Luc Rukingama, Minister of Communication,

Republic of Burundi, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. It featured:

- A statement by Mr. Moundoum Golngar, Director of the Africa/Asia/Western Pacific Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chad, representing the Chairman of the Bureau of the Committee, H.E. Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Republic of Chad;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read out by Mr. Georg Charpentier, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Burundi;
- An address by Mr. Sylvain Ngung Etul Mpwotsh, Representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity;
- A welcoming address by H.E. Mr. Luc Rukingama, Minister of Communication of the Republic of Burundi, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- An opening statement by H.E. Mr. Pascal Nkurunziza, Minister for the Reintegration and Resettlement of Displaced and Repatriated Persons;

The participants drew inspiration from these statements for their discussions.

The participants decided to entrust guidance of the work of the Conference to the Bureau of the Committee.

The work of the Conference was therefore chaired by Mr. Moundoum Golngar of Chad.

Mr. Denis Mbainguebe, Director of the Air and Border Police of the Central African Republic, acted as Rapporteur General.

The work of the Conference covered the following themes:

Theme No. 1

Causes and consequences of massive displacements of persons in Central Africa

Presentation of the theme: Mr. Abraham Constant Ndinga Mbo, emeritus professor of history, Republic of the Congo

Theme No. 2

Situation of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa (magnitude of the phenomenon, difficulties, constraints and the problems of recognition, integration and repatriation)

Presentation of the theme: Mr. François-Xavier Doudou Kiadila, principal legal adviser for Central and West Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva

Theme No. 3

Problems specific to women and children refugees and displaced persons

Presentation of the theme: Ms. Fatima Banzani-Mollet, attorney, Republic of the Congo;

Theme No. 4

Legal and institutional framework for the protection of refugees and displaced persons (national, regional and international legislation)

Presentation of the theme: Mr. Roger Mengue Ekomie, legal adviser to the Minister of the Interior, Gabon.

Theme No. 5

Solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa (measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to improve the situation of refugees and displaced persons)

Presentation of the theme: Mr. François-Xavier Doudou Kiadila, principal legal adviser for Central and West Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva

Presentation of the draft plan of action: Ms. Rebecca Quionie Oba-Omoali, Director for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Republic of the Congo

II. Work of the Conference

In conformity with the methodology proposed by the organizers, the Bujumbura Conference gave rise to substantial statements presented by the high-level experts, followed by dynamic and constructive exchanges among representatives of Governments, international organizations and civil society, resulting in relevant recommendations on specific measures to be taken to deal with the proliferation of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa.

A. Under Theme No. 1, on the **causes and consequences of massive displacements of persons in Central Africa**, participants unanimously recognized the seriousness of the current situation of refugees and displaced persons, which in varying degrees affects all the countries of Central Africa. They stressed the growth in the numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the subregion in recent years.

The participants cited as the main cause of the proliferation of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa the deadly conflicts to which the subregion has been constantly subjected.

They noted that the civil wars or inter-State confrontations that had occurred or persisted in many countries of the region, involving opposing factions, armed groups, ethnic groups, mutineers, militia, insurgent troops, rebel movements and government troops, had driven many refugees from their homes and onto the roads in quest of a safe haven. Among the causes of these conflicts the participants cited the derailment of democratic transition, political revenge, struggles for power and control over resources, post-electoral disputes, tribalism, political manipulation of ethnic groups, refusal to alternate political power, absence of a democratic culture, poor governance, lack of democratic institutions, of sensible conduct of political affairs or of social justice, and economic inequalities.

The participants noted the following additional causes of forced and massive displacement of persons in Central Africa:

- Attacks on human rights: massive and widespread human rights violations, massacres, genocide and others;
- Oppression of religious or ethnic minorities;
- Ethnic, political or religious intolerance;
- Natural disasters: drought, floods, volcanic eruptions;
- Economic causes: economic underdevelopment, destitution and poverty;
- Xenophobia and external interference.

The participants drew attention to two types of consequences of movements of refugees and displaced persons:

- Consequences suffered by refugees and displaced persons themselves, who have often lost everything (land, homes, goods, family) and generally struggle to survive in particularly difficult conditions, suffering from hunger, illness and countless privations and being subjected to all sorts of abuse and ill-treatment (rape, theft, massacres and others);
- Consequences suffered by the host countries: attacks on the stability, security and economy of the host country, increase in organized crime, armed raids, armed robbery, rape, theft, murder, destruction of local economies, shortage of social services, creation of economic and social imbalances, damage to the environment, destruction of flora and fauna, tension and conflicts with indigenous peoples, increasing insecurity, proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, spread of disease, tensions or open conflicts between the host country and the country of origin, loss of control by the central authority of some parts of the national territory, political destabilization and disturbance of democratic processes.

B. Under Theme No. 2, on **the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa (magnitude of the phenomenon, difficulties, constraints and the problems of recognition, integration and repatriation)**, the participants noted that the magnitude which the phenomenon of refugees and displaced persons had reached in Central Africa in recent years was a cause of great concern for the countries of the subregion.

They drew attention to the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa and deplored the unavailability of reliable statistics that would give a better idea of the scope of the phenomenon.

In addressing the questions concerning recognition of refugee status, they deplored the gaps and imperfections in the existing legal framework.

They pointed out the difficulties encountered in the management of refugees and displaced persons, noting that the political difficulties consisted of a lack of will on the part of Governments to allocate the necessary resources; that the economic and financial difficulties resulted from the lack of adequate funding; and that the legal difficulties arose from deficiencies in the legal framework, in particular for displaced persons.

The participants also condemned the attitude of the combatants who denied humanitarian organizations access to refugees and sometimes attacked humanitarian personnel.

They recalled that granting asylum to refugees should be considered a humanitarian act and not an unfriendly act against the country of origin.

The participants also called for the establishment of more regular consultation with UNHCR and the joint elaboration of assistance measures for refugees.

C. Under Theme No. 3, on **problems specific to women and children refugees and displaced persons**, the participants examined the particular difficulties encountered by these vulnerable groups.

They noted that these categories, which represented the majority of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa (about 80 per cent) faced a situation even more tragic than other refugees because of their vulnerability.

They were victims, whatever their age, of all sorts of exploitation, abuse and inhuman and degrading treatment, including various forms of physical violence, maltreatment, torture, murder; sexual violence: rape, forced prostitution; and forced conscription into combat ranks (child soldiers initiated into drug use and used as instruments of death).

The participants especially condemned the systematic rape of refugee and displaced women and children in situations of armed conflict and the forced conscription of children, which had serious physical and psychological repercussions.

Among other difficulties which refugee women and children faced, the participants mentioned malnutrition, disease, problems with daily survival (safe water supply), discrimination in the granting of humanitarian aid, and delays in schooling.

The participants believed that many of the abuses suffered by refugee and displaced women and children could be explained by the nature of the current conflicts, which are more often clashes between militias, ethnic groups or factions led by soldiers who have not received proper training and do not observe the rules of international humanitarian law.

They deplored the fact that women's organizations and other structures of civil society were seldom involved in the design of programmes of assistance and training for refugee women and children. They also expressed their concern at the lack of subregional coordination mechanisms for women's organizations that could promote the protection of women's rights in situations of armed conflict and more active participation by women in the dynamics of the settlement of conflicts.

Stressing the need for better protection of women and children in the context of the wars and conflicts in Central Africa, the participants called for a subregional conference on the protection of women and children in armed conflict and the establishment of specific reception centres in the various countries of Central Africa to provide medical and psychological care to refugee women and children.

D. Under Theme No. 4, on **a legal and institutional framework for the protection of refugees and displaced persons (national, regional and international legislation)**, the participants examined the national, regional and international legal instruments for the protection of refugees and displaced persons.

They noted the inequity between the existence of a legal framework for the protection of refugees at the national, regional and international levels and the ill-defined situation of displaced persons, where there is no such framework.

Among the legal instruments providing protection for refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa, the following were cited: the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Additional Protocol of 1967, the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the 1984 Convention Against

Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the African Charter of Human and People's Rights and national legislation. The 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were also mentioned.

The participants welcomed the fact that the national legislation of the countries of the subregion included laws governing the situation of refugees and guaranteeing protection of their rights. Some national legislation also included the provisions of the relevant international legal instruments.

They were also encouraged by the accession on the part of the countries of the subregion to most of the legal instruments for the protection of refugees and urged those countries which had not yet done so to accede to, sign or ratify all the relevant legal instruments for the protection of refugees and displaced persons and to ensure their effective implementation.

The participants deplored, however, the ignorance of the international legal instruments for the protection of refugees on the part of the persons responsible for their implementation, in addition to the flagrant and repeated violations in the countries of Central Africa of the various international legal instruments for the protection of human rights and the rights of refugees. These violations were generally perpetrated by combatants, but also by Governments, even though they were parties to these instruments.

The participants also welcomed the existence in all the countries of the subregion of administrative structures for the management of refugees and displaced persons and expressed satisfaction with their efforts to come to the aid of refugees. Nevertheless, they deplored the lack of material, logistical and financial resources for those structures and appealed to the international community to provide them with more substantial support.

The participants also expressed their concern at the discrimination against certain groups of displaced persons on the basis of ethnic, political and religious considerations.

In addition, they expressed their profound concern at the imbalance between the humanitarian aid provided to refugees and that allocated to displaced persons, and they stressed that the preference given to refugees by humanitarian agencies had often resulted in tensions between refugees and the local population, not to mention displaced persons. They therefore called on humanitarian organizations, and in particular UNHCR, to show greater interest in the situation of displaced persons.

E. Under Theme No. 5, on **solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa (measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to improve the situation of refugees and displaced persons)**, the participants cited a number of durable solutions to resolve the problems of refugees: repatriation, integration and resettlement.

They appealed to the countries of the subregion to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees to their countries of origin. To that end, they recommended the signing of tripartite or bilateral agreements between the host country, the country of origin and UNHCR.

After examining the draft plan of action submitted during the meeting, the participants recommended a package of measures to be taken at the national and subregional level to find lasting solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa.

The following recommendations were adopted:

III. Recommendations

National measures

- Ratify and implement effectively the major international legal instruments relating to international humanitarian law, human rights and the rights of refugees;
- Adopt measures to strengthen national institutional capacity and ensure an independent administration of justice likely to guarantee the protection of human rights, peace and democracy;
- Re-establish the traditional mechanisms for preventing, managing and settling conflicts, namely, dialogue, mediation and reconciliation;
- Involve women, young people, elderly persons and members of national minorities in preventing, managing and settling conflicts;

- Adopt appropriate legislative, judicial and administrative measures to protect refugees and displaced persons on the basis of the international legal instruments relating to international humanitarian law, human rights and the rights of refugees;

- Adhere strictly to the principle of non-refoulement, as embodied in the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, and the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of 10 September 1969;

- Formulate policies to grant asylum to refugees in accordance with the age-old tradition of African hospitality;

- Give women a more important role in the planning and implementation of programmes relating to security in Central Africa;

- Establish, in consultation with UNHCR, appropriate mechanisms for countering the presence of armed elements and other combatants in the refugee camps, including their disarmament and demobilization, in order to preserve the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps;

- Situate refugee camps at a reasonable distance from the frontier of their country of origin, pursuant to the OAU Convention of 10 September 1969;

- Develop, in collaboration with civil society, programmes to assist and protect refugees and displaced persons;

- Strengthen and apply laws against rape and other forms of violence against women;

- Conduct awareness-raising and training campaigns on the law applicable in time of war and the rights of women and children;

- Develop appropriate policies on the resettlement of refugees;

- Promote the right of refugees and displaced persons to return to their countries of origin or their areas of habitual residence by creating conditions conducive to their repatriation;

- Encourage the local integration or rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons through specific programmes;

- Carry out non-discriminatory integration or reintegration efforts on behalf of all persons affected by armed conflicts;

- Formulate reintegration and rehabilitation programmes comprising activities designed to promote democracy, national reconciliation, social justice, human rights and humanitarian law;

- Request support from the international community to enable the host State to ensure the rehabilitation or reintegration of refugees and displaced persons;

- Disseminate and implement the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;

- Mitigate and prevent the negative effects resulting from the presence of refugees by making a better choice of camp locations;

- Request assistance from the international community for the reclamation of areas destroyed by the indirect results of the existence of refugees;

- Organize specific training for soldiers in international humanitarian law, including the specific problems of refugees and displaced persons;

- Adopt the measures required to ensure transparent cooperation between the national authorities of the host countries and UNHCR;

- Promote confidence between the national authorities of the host countries and those of the countries of origin with a view to a similar understanding of the right of asylum;

- Strengthen the strict observance of article 3 of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of 18 September 1969, whereby the asylum countries undertake to prohibit refugees residing in their territories from carrying out subversive activities likely to cause tension between them and the countries of origin;

- Establish a national committee to follow up the outcome of this Conference whose role will be, inter alia, to formulate a programme of assistance, protection and promotion of the rights of refugees and displaced persons.

Subregional and regional measures

- Develop subregional cooperation to foster the promotion and observance of democracy and the rule of law through symposia, meetings, seminars, and so on;
- Speed up the procedure for ratifying the documents establishing the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX);
- Comply with the 1954 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;
- Establish within the Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC) a special unit composed mainly of women who are responsible for protecting vulnerable groups (women, children, elderly persons, and so on) in armed conflicts;
- Establish, under the auspices of subregional organizations or OAU, ad hoc tripartite commissions, composed of representatives of the country or countries of origin, the country or countries of asylum and UNHCR, with a view to more effectively managing and settling disputes relating to refugees;
- Ensure wide dissemination, in the working languages of OAU, of the international legal instruments relating to the protection of refugees, particularly the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;
- Organize training seminar-workshops on assisting and protecting refugees and displaced persons for members of civil society working in the humanitarian field;
- Establish women's groups and associations with the support of the Advisory Committee;
- Establish throughout Central Africa a network of women working for peace and security on the model of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- Organize, in collaboration with UNHCR and all other relevant humanitarian organizations, subregional training seminar-workshops for Governments and members of civil society working in the humanitarian field;
- Conduct, at the national and subregional levels, an awareness-raising campaign among refugee women concerning their fundamental rights and those of their children;
- Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel and facilitate their unconditional and unimpeded access to refugees and other persons in need of assistance, including the definition of a framework of action for humanitarian organizations;
- Provide, within the Central African early warning mechanism, for the prevention and monitoring of the humanitarian situation inherent in the crises and conflicts in the subregion.

Lastly, the participants welcomed the favourable climate that had prevailed throughout their deliberations and expressed their appreciation to the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Mr. Pierre Buyoya, and to the Burundian Government and people for the warm welcome and the fraternal attentions addressed to them during their stay in Burundi.

Bujumbura, 16 August 2000

United Nations A/55/508 S/2000/1007

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter addressed to you by the Foreign Minister of Israel, Shlomo Ben Ami, in which he presents an update on the events which have taken place since the Sharm Al-Sheikh Summit (see annex).

I should also like to thank you for your efforts in recent days to bring about an end to the bloodshed and facilitate the return of calm and security to our region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

00-70189 (E) 201000

United Nations A/55/508–S/2000/1007

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(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

00-70189 (E) 201000

Annex to the letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

20 October 2000

I am writing to you upon the conclusion of the Sharm Al-Sheikh Summit. I would like to bring you up to date regarding Israel's compliance with the understandings reached at the Summit as well as with our assessment of the current situation on the ground.

As you may know, at the Sharm Al-Sheikh Summit both Israel and the Palestinian Authority agreed upon the implementation of several points, as stated by President Clinton:

First, both sides have agreed to issue public statements that unequivocally call for a complete end to all violence. While Israel immediately issued such a statement, it took the Palestinian Authority over 24 hours to reciprocate. During that time Palestinian gunmen continued provoking Israel's security forces throughout the territories and in Jerusalem. One police officer was critically injured in Jerusalem *just a few hours after the Summit ended. Yesterday, there was yet another vicious* attack: a group of civilians, including women and children, was attacked by Tanzim forces while touring Mount Eival near the Palestinian-controlled city of Nablus. One civilian, a father of eight, was killed as a result of this attack and four others were injured. Meanwhile, the Palestinian media is still manifesting hatred and incitement contrary to the Sharm Al-Sheikh understandings. Shootings and armed confrontations are still being initiated by the Palestinians even as I write these words to you.

I would like to stress the key role played in the last events by the Tanzim paramilitary armed group, sponsored by the Fatah organization. Israel has repeatedly warned that this armed militia, consisting of thousands of armed members, is instigating serious incidents and riots in the territories. Needless to say, such behaviour runs contrary to all agreements signed with the Palestinian Authority. Undoubtedly, this outbreak of violence in the territories in the past weeks, culminating in the last two days' violation of the recent Sharm Al-Sheikh understandings, was carried out by the Tanzim in full cooperation with the Palestinian Authority.

One does not need better evidence than the actual words of Marwan Barghouty, head of the Tanzim group, on Israel Television the very day after the Summit ended: "*I think that the Fatah movement is carrying out its role in leading this intifada and will continue to do so ... I think that this conflict will continue, maybe even escalate, and will take other forms and shapes in the future ...*".

Second, both sides have agreed that the United States will develop, in consultation with the United Nations, a "Fact-finding Committee" that will examine the events of recent weeks. A final report is to be submitted to President Clinton and will later be published. Israel welcomes any efforts made by the United States and the international community to end the violence of the last few weeks, and will fully cooperate with the committee.

Third, both sides have agreed to take immediate concrete measures to eliminate points of friction, redeploy forces, maintain calm, end incitement and

restore law and order. As agreed, Israel has taken the following steps in full compliance with the understandings reached at Sharm Al-Sheikh: Israel Defence Forces troops and armoured vehicles were redeployed, the Gaza airport was reopened and the closure within the territories was removed. More measures, that are meant to ease the situation on the ground, were taken as well.

Finally, in his concluding remarks, President Clinton mentioned the need to address the underlying roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Naturally, the issue of the prospects for resuming negotiations for a permanent status agreement came up. Both sides have agreed to examine those prospects in two weeks' time.

Israel's commitment to peace is no secret and needs no proof. At Camp David Israel displayed unprecedented openness and flexibility. It is essential for the international community to understand that the degree and intensity of the recent violence and terror have not been witnessed before. Israel is determined to put a complete end to all violence before talks can be resumed.

Ultimately, the test is on the ground. The next hours and days are critical not only to the future of the negotiations but mostly to the prospects of stability and peaceful coexistence in the region. I do hope that the Palestinians understand this as well.

May I, therefore, call upon you to add your voice in condemnation of all violence and exert your influence on the Palestinian Authority leadership to fully comply with what was agreed upon. We have to stand firm against all violations of the Sharm Al-Sheikh understandings and work together in order to stabilize the situation, thus enabling us to maintain hope for future progress.

(*Signed*) Shlomo **Ben Ami**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations S/2000/1008

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a document entitled "Stop the occupation of the Congo! Stop the slaughter of innocent people!" (see annex), in which Congolese women from all walks of life denounce the violence and abuse inflicted on them by the occupation of the country and call for your support so as to enable them to guarantee for their children and for coming generations lives in which they can develop freely.

You will note once again, contrary to the reply set out in document S/2000/416 by Mr. Emile Ilunga, that Congolese women have indeed been buried alive. Due attention must be paid to these grave human rights violations so as to ensure that the perpetrators of these barbarous acts are brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) André **Mwamba Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70196 (E) 201000 201000

Annex to the letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Stop the occupation of the Congo!

Stop the slaughter of innocent people!

The outraged women of the Congo call on you for support

We, Congolese women from all walks of life and all social classes, together with all those who have sympathy for our cause, today break our silence in order to denounce the violence and abuse committed daily in our country, the Congo, particularly in the eastern region.

We express our concern to guarantee for our children and for coming generations lives that will enable them to develop fully.

However, the acts of aggression directed against our country are an obstacle to building any sort of education, instruction, training or development structure; the most abominable crimes are being perpetrated against children, women and men of all ages and of all social backgrounds.

For example, in November 1999, in Mwenga, South Kivu, 15 women were buried alive by the torturers of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie. Before burying them alive in a pit, they inserted a red pepper mixture into their sexual organs. Among the victims of these barbarous acts were:

Ms. Lurnini Evudne Bitondo, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Bukumbu, a farmer from Ilinda

Ms. Agnès Kungwa, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Mutiki Mapendo, a farmer from Ilinda

Ms. Musombwa Mbinzi, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Mukoto, a farmer from Bulinzi

The wife of Kisali Mwami, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Nakipimo Nakusu, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Kasandule Nyassa, a farmer from Ilinda

Ms. Christine San, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Sifa, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Wakenge Tabu, a farmer from Bulinzi

... and many other unidentified women.

These massacres, which were extremely and gratuitously barbarous, were perpetrated on the orders of Frank Kasereka of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie against peaceful, innocent mothers. Other reliable accounts describe abominable forms of torture such as holding the victim's head down in a barrel full of water until death ensued; forcing respected individuals to appear naked before a large crowd; spitting, urinating or defecating into the victim's mouth and obliging him or her to swallow these fluids and excreta; raping children in front of their parents; forcing a father to rape his daughter, forcing a son to have sex with his mother, and a brother with his sister; and disembowelling pregnant women.

All these crimes committed against fellow human beings and the feelings of helplessness they engender cannot leave other people indifferent since they are so shameful that they sully and dishonour all mankind.

As citizens of the Congo, as mothers and teachers of coming generations of Congolese, we are outraged by the acts of aggression directed against our country, and we call on all people of goodwill who are able to do so, and on the International Federation of Human Rights, the League of Human Rights, national and international organizations, and nations that assert that they are friends of the Congo and of the Congolese, to join with us in bringing pressure to bear on the aggressors in order to oblige them to leave the Congo immediately and unconditionally so that we can restore peace in our country.

Without peace, and without national unity, no project to reconstruct the country or educate and train young people will lead anywhere and all lives will be in the balance. It is essential that the International Federation of Human Rights and the Human Rights League should send commissions of inquiry to the Congo to investigate these abuses and report to the International Criminal Court.

Confronted with these barbarous acts, we cry loud and clear, "Enough!" We strongly denounce the massacres at Makobola, Kasika, Walungu, Chiunga and Uvira, and we express our outrage at the killers, rapists and torturers.

The momentum of courageous, forward-looking men, women and children in reconstructing this young nation has been broken by the unjust occupation of the country by the Ugandan, Rwandan and Burundian armies, which bring all their efforts to naught.

In order to end this shameful situation and prevent these troops from causing further harm, we, Congolese women from all walks of life and from all social classes, call on the Congolese people and on all who support our cause to join us in this appeal:

Stop the occupation!

Stop the slaughter of innocent people!

Stop the violence!

Stop the enslavement of the people!

Stop the plundering and destruction of the Congo!

[*Signed*] Emma **Kayolo-Katshaka**, M.D.
Rue Charles Jaumotte 44
1300 Limal, tel. 010-40 08 03

[*Signed*] Madiya Clémentine **Nzuji**,
Professor at Louvain Catholic University,
Secretary-General of the Centre international des langues,
littératures et traditions d'Afrique
Avenue des Clos 30
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, tel. 010-45 06 65

[*Signed*] Marie **Muderhwa**,
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Av. de la Cigogne 6
1300 Limal, tel. 010-41 62 73

[*Signed*] Lembo Chantal **Bashizi**,
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1300 Wavre, tel. 010-24 48 83

United Nations S/2000/1009

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by women parliamentarians of the Democratic Republic of the Congo aimed at drawing the attention of the international community to the pernicious effects of the war on women (see annex).

The women parliamentarians of the Democratic Republic of the Congo consider that the war is destroying any attempt the country is making to free women from poverty.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) André **Mwamba Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70202 (E) 201000 201000

Annex to the letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Constituent and Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Transition

Statement by women parliamentarians on the occasion of the world march of women in New York, 15 October 2000

Madam President,

Sisters of the whole world,

Women parliamentarians of the Democratic Republic of the Congo salute the initiative of the Fédération des Femmes du Québec in organizing on this day, 15 October 2000, in the superb city of New York in the United States of America, a World March of Women against poverty and violence inflicted on women. They consider that the time has come to pay due homage to all Congolese women fighting for freedom who gave their blood in defence of their nation's sovereignty, who lost their lives, their husbands, their daughters and their sons, their fathers and their brothers, in an absurd war which enabled Rwandans, Burundians and Ugandans freely to plunder the precious raw materials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo while getting the international community to believe that their troops were in the country to ensure security along the common borders. The entire international community now knows that the Rwandans, the Ugandans and the Burundians are really on Congolese soil where on three occasions they even clashed over the control of the gold and diamond mines in the Eastern Province.

Women parliamentarians of the Democratic Republic of the Congo consider that this war is destroying any effort the country is making to free women from poverty.

The war means that many young Congolese girls are not able to get normal schooling. It has been proved that education in a developing country like ours enables women to protect their health and that of their families, to plan their families, and to participate freely in the political, social and economic life of their country.

In short, education enables women to overcome poverty and to embark on the road to development. A girl who gets no schooling today will be a woman who is poor tomorrow. Depriving women of education is a form of violence inflicted on them.

That is why the women of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have decided not to abandon the struggle, despite the inertia and silence of the international community in the face of the dramatic plight of the people of the Congo since 2 August 1998. They have undertaken acts of resistance against the country's aggressors.

- The women of Kisangani in the Eastern Province launched an appeal for civil disobedience by refusing to pay taxes and to buy goods plundered by the Ugandans and Rwandans. This was to denounce the plundering of diamonds, gold, coffee and wood, and the cruel destruction of Congolese fauna, flora and basic infrastructure.

- The organization of sit-ins in embassies and United Nations organizations to protest against the crime of Congolese women being buried alive at Mwenga in the Province of South Kivu.

- In Bukavu Congolese women stopped work for a week to protest at their Bishop, the late Monsignor Kataliko, being moved from his episcopal seat to another locality.

- Moral and material assistance to the war wounded and displaced.

- Protection for children fleeing enrolment in enemy camps.

- Taking unaccompanied children into care.

This effort by Congolese women to seek peace and freedom must now be supported by all of you present here at this meeting. Madam President, sisters of the entire world, peace returning to the Democratic Republic of the Congo will encourage Congolese women in pursuing their battle against poverty and all forms of violence against them.

Help them to achieve this objective by denouncing this war of aggression and by acting to deter all those countries which have engaged in war against the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A war which dehumanizes Congolese women.

And even if, as paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1304 (2000) states, "the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda should make reparations for the loss of life and the property damage they have inflicted on the civilian population in Kisangani", would these reparations be enough to dress the wounds of the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the victims, which will always be gaping wounds? Could these reparations permit one to forget the atrocities that have been experienced, the mothers who were disembowelled in Kabinda, Kasika and Katogota, areas occupied by the aggressors? Would these reparations be sufficient to erase the sad memory of the massacres of the Congolese civilian population in Makobola, Kasala, Imese and Kamituga?

What do these reparations represent for the families of the Congolese women buried alive at Mwenga? Mobilize yourselves, sisters of the whole world, to bring an end to the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo out of a duty of solidarity, and future generations will be grateful to you for it.

Long live the solidarity of the women of the world!

For the Congolese Parliamentary Women of the
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Lukusa **Mwika**

Cathy **Kabula**

Bekombe **Ndjoli**

United Nations A/55/513–S/2000/1010

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 40 and 41
The situation in the Middle East
Question of Palestine

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your kind attention, the final communiqué of the Extraordinary Arab Summit held in Cairo, on 21 and 22 October 2000. It would be highly appreciated if the enclosed document could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 40 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Aboulgheit**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70497 (E) 241000 241000

Annex to the letter dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué of the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo on 21 and 22 October 2000

At the urgent invitation of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo in 1996, the heads of State of the Arab countries held an extraordinary meeting in Cairo on 21 and 22 October 2000.

This Summit is being convened in circumstances that are of great importance in the history of our Nation and at a new stage in the lives of its peoples, after grave complications because of which the peace process between the Arabs and Israel has broken down and with Israel having transformed the peace process into a war against the Palestinian people in which it is using military force to blockade and isolate that people and hold it hostage within the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Summit hails the Intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories that has given unequivocal expression to the bitterness of frustration following long years of expectation and anticipation focused on the outcome of a political settlement that failed to bear fruit because of Israel's intransigence and procrastination and its aversion to discharging its obligations. The Arab leaders invoke the mercy of God upon the souls of the Palestinian martyrs, and they regard their pure blood as a precious hoard set by for the liberation of the land, the establishment of the State and the achievement of peace.

The Arab leaders commend the response of the Arab masses, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf, to the Intifadah of the valiant Palestinian people, and they acclaim the evident national consensus they have reached in standing together to condemn the Israeli aggression and the savage actions taken by the occupation forces. The stirring of the Arab masses is an expression of latent patriotic sentiments and of strong solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people for its sovereignty, its dignity and those things it holds sacred.

The Arab leaders hold Israel responsible for returning the region to a climate of tension and to manifestations of violence as a result of its practices, its assaults and its blockade of the Palestinian people in violation of its obligations as the occupying Power under the terms of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Such conduct is also in flagrant violation of the norms of international law and is destructive of efforts to build peace in the region, and the rulers of Israel have handled the Jerusalem issue with a disdain that satisfies a passion for irresponsible display and deliberate provocation based on a repulsive racism. The Arab leaders call upon Israel to halt forthwith all of its provocative practices and to desist from its policy of repression directed against Arab civilians.

The Arab leaders affirm that the Al-Aqsa Intifadah has broken out as a result of the maintenance and perpetuation of the occupation and because of Israel's encroachments on the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem and on the other Islamic and

Christian Holy Places in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Arab leaders bring to mind with reverence, as they recall to the world, the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives in defence of their occupied land and the things they held sacred without heed for the war machine deployed by Israel to confront the unarmed, defenceless Palestinian people. They affirm the right of the Palestinian people to exact just compensation from Israel for the damage and the human and material losses it has sustained.

In response to a proposal by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, they hereby decide to establish two funds. The Al-Aqsa Fund will be allocated a sum of 800 million dollars for the funding of projects designed to preserve the Arab and Islamic identity of Jerusalem and prevent its loss and to enable the Palestinian people to disengage from its subordination to the Israeli economy. The Al-Quds Intifadah Fund will have a capital of 200 million dollars to be allocated for disbursement to the families of Palestinian martyrs fallen in the Intifadah and for providing the means necessary for the care and education of their children. They express their deep appreciation to The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for his decision that the Kingdom will contribute one quarter of the total sum to be allocated to the two funds.

The Arab leaders call upon all members of the Arab Nation to donate one day's wages as a citizens' contribution to support for the Intifadah and in order to assist the Palestinian national struggle at the crucial juncture at which our Arab Nation finds itself.

The Arab leaders call for the formation, within the framework of the United Nations, of an impartial international commission of inquiry to report to the Security Council and the Commission on Human Rights on the causes of and responsibility for the grave deterioration in the occupied Palestinian territories and the atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and other Arab residents of the occupied territories. They stress in this connection the provisions of Security Council resolution 1322 (2000) of 7 October 2000, the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its special session on 19 October 2000 and the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 October 2000. They urge the Security Council to keep developments in the situation in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories under review in the light of the threat that situation poses to international peace and security, and they call for the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly to assume responsibility for providing the necessary protection to the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation by giving consideration to the establishment of a force or an international presence for this purpose, given that the United Nations bears permanent responsibility for the land and people of Palestine until such time as the Palestinian people secures the exercise of its inalienable rights in Palestine in accordance with international legitimacy.

The Arab leaders affirm that the Arab States will pursue, in accordance with international law, those responsible for the savage practices in question. They call upon the Security Council to establish an international criminal tribunal to prosecute the Israeli war criminals who perpetrated massacres of Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories, on the same pattern as the tribunals established by the Council to prosecute war criminals in Rwanda and in the former Yugoslavia. They will continue their pursuit with a view to bringing them to trial in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Arab leaders express their extreme disapproval and condemnation of Israel's escalation in the hostile actions it was taking and the provocative attitudes it adopted at a time when the region was readying itself for a just and comprehensive peace, given that since the Madrid Conference the Arabs had decided that the option of a just and comprehensive peace would open the way to a final settlement to a heated conflict that had already lasted for more than half a century.

The Arab leaders condemn Israel's failure to respond to the peace option and its failure to make a vigorous endeavour for a just and comprehensive peace. They caution Israel against the pursuit of practices and actions that threaten the region's security and undermine its stability.

The Arab leaders affirm that the Nation has fixed principles that may not be violated, rights that may not be bargained away and goals for which they will never cease to strive in order to secure overriding Arab interests.

The Arab leaders affirm that peace must be based on the concepts of universality and justice as necessary preconditions if it is to be accepted and maintained. They affirm that this Arab position calls for a corresponding commitment on the part of Israel, which must meet it with an unequivocal stance based on compliance with the international rule of law in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), United Nations General Assembly resolution 149 (III), concerning the right of Palestinian refugees to repatriation and compensation, the other relevant United Nations resolutions and the principles governing the peace process, primarily the principle of land for peace.

The Arab leaders affirm that a just and comprehensive peace can only ever be achieved with the return of Jerusalem to full Palestinian sovereignty and the acceptance of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent State with its capital at Jerusalem — which is Palestinian territory that has been occupied since 1967 to say nothing of its spiritual significance and its religious status. All the occupied Arab territories must also be returned, and this includes Israel's full withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, to the line of 4 June 1967, complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon, including the Shab'a farmlands, up to the internationally recognized boundaries, the release of Arab prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and the removal of Israeli settlements in implementation of Security Council resolution 465 (1980).

In this context, the Arab leaders reaffirm their support for their brothers in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. They affirm their commitment to their legitimate rights and to the restoration of all their occupied territories. They also affirm in this connection their rejection of any attempts to impose a peace that is unjust or lacking in balance on the basis of Israeli claims and at the expense of Arab rights and interests.

In the light of the setback to the peace process, the Arab leaders affirm their commitment to oppose with resolve Israel's attempts to penetrate the Arab world, under any designation, and to suspend the maintenance of any relations with Israel. They hold Israel responsible for the measures and decisions to be taken by the Arab States in connection with their relations with it, including their severance, such as will be required in order to counter the suspension of the peace process, the grave

developments to which that has recently given rise and the complications it has caused in the Arab and Islamic arenas, until such time as a comprehensive and just peace is achieved.

While emphasizing that the halt to the peace process on all bilateral tracks has caused the suspension of the multilateral track, the Arab leaders affirm that issues of regional cooperation cannot be addressed without real progress towards a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The halt in the peace process caused by Israel's policy and by its provocative practices makes talk of a common future in the region untimely. They hereby decide not to resume or participate in any official or informal activity in the multilateral framework and to suspend all measures and activities for regional economic cooperation with Israel in this framework and to link their resumption and their scope to the attainment of tangible progress towards a just and comprehensive peace on all the tracks of the peace progress.

The Arab leaders commend the decisions taken by the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and in particular the final communiqué adopted at its most recent session held in Agadir, Morocco, under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, reaffirming support for the stance taken by the State of Palestine based on commitment to sovereignty over East Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif and all the Islamic and Christian Holy Places that are part and parcel of the occupied Palestinian territories, and to Jerusalem as the capital of the independent State of Palestine. The Arab leaders recall Security Council resolution 478 (1980), in which the Council urges the world's States to refrain from relocating their embassies to Jerusalem, and the resolution of the eleventh Arab Summit Conference, held in Amman in 1980, calling for the severance of all relations with States that relocate their embassies to Jerusalem or recognize the city as a capital of Israel.

The Arab leaders affirm that for lasting peace and security in the region to be achieved, Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place all of its nuclear facilities under the international inspection and monitoring regime. They also affirm in this connection the extreme importance of ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and of all weapons of mass destruction as a necessary and indispensable precondition for the establishment of any regional security arrangements in the future.

The Arab leaders express their conviction that ongoing changes in the international arena make it essential to reactivate joint Arab action and to reinforce and renew the League of Arab States and expand its institutions in order to enhance its future pan-Arab role.

In this context, the Arab leaders, meeting at this delicate juncture, decide to endorse the mechanism for the regular periodic convening of the Arab Summit as approved by the Council of the League of Arab States at its recent one hundred and fourteenth session and adopted in its final form by the meeting of Arab foreign ministers held in preparation for the present Summit. In accordance with the rotation by alphabetical order of the chairmanship for the convening of the periodic summits, the Arab Heads of State decide that the summit-level Council of the League of Arab States will meet at its thirteenth ordinary session in March 2001 under the chairmanship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Amman, Jordan.

The Arab leaders express their confidence that the regular periodic convening of the Arab Summit will contribute to the promotion of joint Arab action in all fields, and particularly in the economic field where such action has become more pressing than ever in the light of the international and regional changes that make Arab economic integration an urgent necessity. This is particularly true given the human, natural and strategic resources the Arab countries possess, which would contribute to the achievement of economic stability in the region and in the world and promote rates of growth and the prosperity of peoples.

In concluding their Summit, the Arab leaders commended the spirit of complete solidarity that had prevailed in the conference and the constructive discussions to which all delegations had contributed in a way that reflected the deep sense shared by all — leaders, governments and peoples — of the gravity of the situation and of the importance of defining a unified Arab position to stand up firmly against Israeli threats in an endeavour to put the peace process back on the right road to a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Arab leaders expressed their high appreciation of the decision of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, to bear the costs of the commission to inquire into human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories that had been established by the resolution adopted on 19 October 2000 by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifth special session, so that it would be able to achieve its objectives.

The Arab leaders affirmed their resolve to continue to utilize Arab capacities in the service of the Nation's causes and to make all of its resources available for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories, for support to the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain its land and establish its independent State on its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital, and for the preservation of Islamic and Christian Holy Places in Palestine. The Arab leaders agreed to continue their consultations in order to address ongoing developments confronting the Arab Nation.

The Arab leaders conveyed their deep thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as to the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for their kind hospitality and the warm reception given. They expressed their full appreciation of the way in which the conference had been organized and prepared, and they offered His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak their best wishes and the people of Egypt continued progress and prosperity.

United Nations

S/2000/1011

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to yet another act of aggression perpetrated against Israel from Lebanese territory.

On the night of Friday, 20 October, a number of terrorists attempted to infiltrate into Israel, armed with automatic weapons, grenades and high explosive charges. Israeli forces who arrived on the scene came under intense gunfire and grenade attack from the Lebanese side of the border. Searches of the area uncovered the body of one terrorist, three rifles, a machine gun, and parts of an explosive device. These findings point to the intention of the perpetrators to carry out terrorist attacks inside Israel against Israeli citizens.

In the light of this most recent hostile attack against Israel from Lebanese territory and the growing escalation on that border, I wish to recall our letters addressed to you dated 6 July (A/54/936-S/2000/661), 13 July (A/54/939-S/2000/689), 4 August (A/54/957-S/2000/769) and 15 August 2000 (S/2000/805), as well as our letter of 7 October 2000 (S/2000/969) addressed to the President of the Security Council. Those letters called attention to the continuing Lebanese violations along the line of withdrawal and the continued threat which they pose to international peace and security in the region.

It should be recalled that Israel withdrew forces from Southern Lebanon in full compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) — a withdrawal confirmed by the Secretary-General (S/2000/590) and subsequently endorsed by the Security Council (S/PRST/2000/21) and referred to in Security Council resolution 1310 (2000). Indeed, in resolution 1310 (2000) the Council called for the deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the area and for the Government of Lebanon to "ensure the return of its effective authority and presence in the south, and in particular to proceed with a significant deployment of the Lebanese armed forces as soon as possible", and to "ensure a calm environment throughout the south" (paras. 6-7). Clearly, this must include taking full control over the area in proximity to the fence with Israel and preventing the acts of disorder and violence directed towards Israeli territory.

We therefore call once again upon the other parties, chiefly the Government of Lebanon, to fulfil their responsibilities under resolutions 425 (1978) and 1310 (2000), which entail putting an end to these violations of Israeli sovereignty, establishing effective Lebanese authority in the area and acting to bring peace and security to our common border.

00-70449 (E) 231000

We would request once again that, in the light of this situation, you and the Security Council take the necessary measures to ensure that resolutions 425 (1978) and 1310 (2000) are implemented in their entirety. The Government of Lebanon should, in this context, be called upon to carry out its responsibility to end the violations from its territory, deploy its armed forces and restore its effective authority and control throughout the area. Israel reiterates the need for UNIFIL forces to be deployed at all points of friction along the border between Israel and Lebanon, in keeping with its mandate under resolution 425 (1978).

Should Israel's repeated calls continue to go unheeded and the present situation persist, in which no party takes upon itself responsibility for maintaining order and security in South Lebanon, there is a real danger of a grave deterioration in the area, an outcome that all sides must act to prevent.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/1012

Security Council

Distr. General
23 October 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 22 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 October 2000 from Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Vice-President and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, in which he calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 9 to 15 October 2000 they carried out 198 sorties, 90 of them from Saudi Arabia, 78 from Kuwait and 30 from Turkey.

The Vice-President and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs urges intervention with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and with the countries participating in this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt their aggression and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70703 (E) 251000 251000

Annex to the identical letters dated 22 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 198 sorties in the period from 9 to 15 October 2000, 90 of them from Saudi Arabia, 78 from Kuwait and 30 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 30 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1005 hours on 9 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1030 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1115 hours on 10 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Irbil, Zakho, Baibo and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 168 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0800 hours on 9 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 32 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Rifa'i, Qurnah, Shinafiyah and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1635 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0905 hours on 10 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 52 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 26 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Hayy, Afak, Samawah, Amarah, Ukhaydir, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Salman and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1610 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1115 hours on 12 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 24 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Jalibah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Busayyah, Artawi, Shatrah, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Mashkhab, Nukhayb and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1555 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1325 hours on 13 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Jalibah, Najaf, Hayy, Qal'at Salih and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1400 hours on 14 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Busayyah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1520 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges you to perform your assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening

with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Taha Yasin **Ramadan**
Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations

S/2000/1013

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 October 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 22 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, between 1 August and 30 September 2000, 56 explosive devices (mines, bombs, missiles, etc.) left behind by the 30-Power aggression against Iraq were found and disposed of in Ninawa, Ta'mim, Anbar, Najaf, Qadisiyah, Dhi Qar and Basra Governorates.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70443 (E) 231000 231000

United Nations S/2000/1014

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 October 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that my Government has instructed me to bring to your attention a mistranslation in Presidential statement S/PRST/2000/29 of 29 September 2000 on the situation in Burundi.

In the seventh paragraph of the statement, the English original reads: "It urges all concerned to ensure that *former camp inhabitants* are protected". The translation in the French text is as follows: "... faire en sorte que *les personnes qui ont été internées dans les camps* ...".

This French translation is inaccurate and misleading. A number of Secretariat briefings as well as the briefing by the Facilitator, Nelson Mandela, have confirmed the total dismantling of the regroupment camps. The Security Council should commend this positive development in clear terms.

I should therefore like the Security Council to correct this anomaly, and to go even further, congratulating the Government of Burundi or commending it for having kept its promise.

It should be recalled that the rebellion is still posing as a condition for negotiating the ceasefire, among others, the dismantling of the regroupment camps. It must be denied this pretext by means of a clear and unequivocal wording, and invited rather to accept the unconditional halting of hostilities and rejoin the peace process supported by all the negotiators of the Peace Agreement signed on 28 August 2000.

I should like this letter to be regarded as an official document of the Security Council and to be brought to the attention of all its members.

(*Signed*) Marc **Ntenuruye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70455 (E) 231000 231000

United Nations A/ES-10/39–S/2000/1015

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my recent letters, dated 29 September (A/55/432-S/2000/921), 2 October (A/55/437-S/2000/930), 4 October (A/55/450-S/2000/957), 9 October (A/55/466-S/2000/971), 12 October (A/55/474-S/2000/984) and 16 October 2000 (A/55/490-S/2000/993), I regret to inform you once again that Israel, the occupying Power, continues its bloody campaign of terror, massacring and injuring more Palestinian civilians each day. The excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying army continues in total disregard for international law and Security Council resolution 1322 (2000) of 7 October 2000, as well as General Assembly resolution ES-10/7 adopted by the Assembly at its tenth emergency special session on 20 October 2000.

Since my previous letter, Israeli forces have killed 28 more Palestinians, bringing the total number of deaths to 115. (The names of the martyrs are annexed.) The Israeli forces have also injured hundreds more, many of whom remain in critical condition in overwhelmed and overcrowded hospitals in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Using heavy weaponry, the Israeli occupying forces continue to encroach upon Palestinian cities. This has included the deployment of additional tanks and the use of tanks, rockets, missiles and helicopter gunships against the Palestinian people. In fact, yesterday as well as today, the Israeli army launched rockets from helicopter gunships into civilian-populated areas north of Bethlehem in the village of Beit Jala. Such violent Israeli military actions have resulted in the loss of Palestinian lives and the severe destruction of property in wholly civilian areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Furthermore, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to impose restrictive blockades on the movement of persons and goods into, out of and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. Today, the occupying Power once again shut down the airspace at Gaza International Airport.

00-70507 (E) 241000

In addition, the Israeli Government has taken additional political steps making the salvaging of the Middle East peace process even more difficult. The Prime Minister of Israel declared a so-called time out from the peace process. In addition to the fact that the peace process is not a game, such a public attitude brings into serious question the commitment of this Government to both the peace process and to the recent Sharm el-Sheikh understandings. We are seriously concerned that this new Israeli military and political escalation might be in preparation to take the Israeli campaign against our people to a new intensified level.

We reiterate once more the necessity for the international community, in particular the Security Council, to ensure Israeli compliance with international law, as well as with Security Council resolution 1322 (2000) and General Assembly resolution ES-10/7.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Names of the martyrs killed by Israeli security forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including Jerusalem

(Monday, 16 October to Monday, 23 October 2000)

Monday, 16 October 2000

Naim Attallah Ahmad Abu Hawash (was not included in the list of martyrs annexed to the letter dated 16 October 2000 (A/55/490-S/2000/993))

Tuesday, 17 October 2000

1. Farid Mussa Issa Nasasrah
2. Mohamad Al Dukheil
3. Nabil Khater

Wednesday, 18 October 2000

Ibrahim Abdel Rahman Al Alamah

Thursday, 19 October 2000

1. Zahi Fathi Al Ardeh
2. Mahdi Abu Shadouh
3. Hassan Mohamad Abu Mahameed

Friday, 20 October 2000

1. Alaa Bassam Beni Nimra (13 years old)
2. Thaer Mohamad Ali (13 years old)
3. Firas Khalil Mustafa Zeid
4. Amjad Ahmad Abu Issa
5. Samer Tallal Al Ouissi (16 years old)
6. Adnan Mohamad Khairy Assaad
7. Ahmad Faour
8. Mohamad Abu Tahoun (15 years old)
9. Nidal Hamouda Abu Shakra

Saturday, 21 October 2000

1. Fayez Al Qaimari
2. Omar Ismail Al Bahisi (16 years old)
3. Majid Ibrahim Al Hawamdah (15 years old)
4. Tarek Ismail Hantouly

Sunday, 22 October 2000

1. Nael Al Zamaira
2. Ali Al Hawamdah
3. Wa'el Mahmoud Emad (13 years old)
4. Salah Fawzi Nijmi (15 years old)

Monday, 23 October 2000

1. Ashraf Ahmad Habaib (15 years old)
2. Sa'ed Adnan Abdallah Al Tanbour
3. Abdel Aziz Mohamad Abu Asnineh

United Nations S/2000/1016

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith an article from the *New York Post* dated 15 October 2000, entitled "Would Bill launch missiles to pull Al from the fire?" (see annex).

The article stated that the allegation by the United States Administration regarding Al-Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory, destroyed by the United States on 20 August 1998, has turned out to be a lie. Too late, alas, for the suffering Sudanese who depended on medicine made at the plant.

I should appreciate it if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eltatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

00-70614 (E) 241000

Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

WOULD BILL LAUNCH MISSILES TO PULL AL FROM THE FIRE?

News Article by **NYPOST** posted on October 15, 2000 at 11:23:50. EST (-5 GMT)

WOULD BILL LAUNCH MISSILES TO PULL AL FROM THE FIRE?

Sunday,October 15,2000 ROD DREHER New York Post

NOW is the time for all medicine factory employees in the Muslim world to stay home from work. At least until after Tuesday night's final presidential debate.

Given the Clinton administration's shameful record, there is every reason to expect Third World blood to be shed to save Al Gore's flagging bid for the presidency.

To be sure, the prospect of Osama bin Laden and his fanatical cohorts turned into terrorist tartare by U.S. bombs is deeply satisfying to contemplate.

And the cowards who murdered the men and women of the USS Cole have given the United States every reason to hit the guilty back hard, as we must.

But who can trust Clinton to do it right, to act on hard facts and clear principle unsullied by selfishness? Our dog-wagging commander-in-chief is no stranger to committing acts of war to protect himself politically.

As Christopher Hitchens points out in his devastatinganti-Clinton screed "No One Left to Lie to," this president fired cruise missiles three times at foreigners on days when impeachment news was bad.

* On Aug. 20, 1998, as Monica Lewinsky prepared to go before the grand jury and three days after Clinton's non-apology TV apology fell flat, the president ordered a missile attack on a pharmaceutical plant in Sudan.

The administration said the factory was used to make chemical weapons. That turned out to be a lie - too late, alas, for the suffering Sudanese who depended on medicine made at that plant.

* That same night, Clinton sent a barrage of expensive cruise missiles against purported terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. There was minimal damage, and one wonders why, if not for political reasons, a costly, fruitless attack was ordered in such haste.

* On Dec. 15, 1998, Clinton ordered a missile attack on Baghdad, ostensibly to punish Saddam Hussein for not complying with U.N. weapons inspectors. Did Saddam have it coming? Absolutely.

But he had it coming for a long time. It was curious indeed that the missiles went flying as the House was set to take up the impeachment debate, which was postponed for a few days.

Strangely enough, the missiles stopped falling after the House impeachment vote showed Republicans would not be intimidated.

Now, here we are less than a month away from Election Day, with the Mideast crisis putting Gore in a bad position on several fronts.

Military readiness, for one. As The Post's Bob McManus discussed in his column Friday, the Cole incident indicates a Navy stretched too thin, and unprepared to counter threats in the post-Cold War world.

Second, the prospect of a wider Mideast war is causing oil prices to spike and the stock market to tremble. A new Arab-Israeli war could cause the OPEC nations to shut off the West's oil pipeline.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve, released by Clinton to shield Gore from SUV drivers angry over high gas prices, was supposed to be for emergencies like this. As the Mideast situation deteriorates, that Clinton decision looks to have imperiled national security for the sake of a self-serving political stunt.

Don't be surprised if the U.S. military strikes what we will be told is a terrorist target sometime between now and the start of Tuesday's debate, which should have an unusually large audience given the events of last week.

Any attempt by George W. Bush to use the Mideast debacle to make sober, legitimate criticism of Clinton-Gore military and geopolitical policies will be met with pious demagoguery by scoundrel, pseudo-patriotic Democrats.

I hope I'm wrong. But we have learned by now never to put anything past Clinton when his political legacy is at stake, as it certainly is in the Bush-Gore referendum.

Team Bush had better be ready. So should the American people.

United Nations S/2000/1017

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 October 2000

Original: English

Note verbale dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council, and has the honour to refer to the most recent on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and hereby attach for your urgent attention a copy of the record of the meeting held on 16 October 2000 at Maputo (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa requests that You kindly circulate the enclosed document as a document of the Security Council.

00-70656 (E) 241000

Annex to the note verbale dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

MINI SUMMIT ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2000 : MAPUTO

INTRODUCTION.

The mini summit on the current situation in the DRC was attended by the Presidents of the DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. The meeting was convened to address, primarily, the questions of the disengagement of forces in the DRC as well as the security concerns of the participants in the DRC conflict. The President of Angola, HE President dos Santos, sent an apology for his absence. He indicated that he received the invitation to the meeting at a late stage, as a result of which he was unable to make appropriate travel arrangements.

DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES

It was agreed that all the armed forces presently in the DRC will immediately start disengaging to positions set out in the Kampala disengagement plan adopted by the Political Committee. The meeting recognised that the Kampala plan indicated positions as at the time of its adoption, together with an agreement that the parties move a further 15 kilometres away from the indicated lines.

Uganda and Rwanda undertook to voluntarily move even further than the agreed lines. The other parties agreed that once MONUC has verified this process of further disengagement, they will reciprocate.

President Mbeki was requested to advise all other parties not present at the meeting of this understanding.

MONITORING OF THE DISENGAGEMENT

MONUC will be requested to monitor the disengagement.

SECURITY CONCERNS

The meeting agreed that the Ministers of Defence of the DRC, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and South Africa meet, to work out specific mechanisms to address the Interehamwe and ex-FAR problem. The Ministers can be assisted by such other officials as they deem necessary.

JMC

The meeting agreed that the Secretary General of the OAU be approached urgently to assist in identifying a Chairperson for the JMC, who should be an experienced military officer, preferably from the region.

THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the political committee should hold regular meetings. The members of the committee should chair its meetings on a rotational basis.

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

It was agreed that President Chiluba continue to address all the other issues arising out of the Lusaka agreement, especially the urgent matter of the internal political process in the DRC. Any proposal on possible adjustments to the Lusaka agreement would also be addressed through this process.

THE WAY FORWARD

The meeting agreed to reconvene in a fortnight, in Maputo, to receive reports on the implementation of these agreements.

United Nations S/2000/1018

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolutions 1312 (2000) of 31 July 2000 and 1320 (2000) of 15 September 2000, by which the Security Council established the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and authorized its mandate.

Further to my letter of 29 August 2000 concerning the list of contributing countries and following the usual consultations, I propose that the following countries be added to the list of States contributing military personnel to UNMEE: Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Gambia, Jordan, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia and United States of America.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-70626 (E) 241000

United Nations S/2000/1019

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 24 October 2000 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 20 October 2000 (S/2000/1018) concerning the addition of countries to the list of States contributing military personnel to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They take note of the proposal contained in your letter.

(*Signed*) Martin **Andjaba**
President of the Security Council

00-70650 (E) 241000

United Nations S/2000/1020

Security Council

Distr. General
25 October 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 24 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The letter dated 7 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2000/969), which holds the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic responsible for events in south Lebanon, does not reflect reality and makes no reference to the causes of the dangerous situation currently prevailing in our region.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations would therefore like to make the following clarifications:

1. Security and peace in the region are imperilled by Israel's persistence in ignoring the resolutions of international legitimacy, in particular, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), its failure to complete its withdrawal from south Lebanon, including the Shab a farmlands, to the internationally recognized boundaries and its continued occupation of Arab lands seized by force in June 1967.

2. Israel's continued detention of scores of Lebanese citizens and thousands of Palestinians, the measures taken by the occupation forces against the civilian population in the occupied territories, the building of settlements and the attempt to Judaize Jerusalem are factors that contribute to the permanently explosive situation in the region and a blatant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and of international law and international humanitarian law.

3. Syria rejects the Israeli accusations and threats contained in the aforementioned letter. Syria itself shows scrupulous respect for the resolutions of international legitimacy and is striving to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. It therefore holds Israel directly responsible for the escalation of the situation in the Middle East and urges the Security Council to bring pressure to bear on Israel to comply with the Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli struggle, which require Israel to withdraw completely from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and to guarantee the Palestinian people its legitimate rights.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, concerned for the peace process that has been suspended by the Israeli Government, calls upon the international community, and the United Nations in particular, to take all necessary measures to halt the bloody and oppressive practices that Israel employs against the Palestinian people and to condemn the threats which Israel directs towards both Syria and

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Lebanon. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also wishes to reaffirm that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region can be achieved only by compelling Israel to respect the resolutions of international legitimacy and to implement Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace, which will entail that State's complete withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mikhail **Wehbe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative